

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 6, 2004 and references cited therein have been reviewed. In an effort to place the claims in allowable form, Applicants have canceled claims 21 and 27, amended claims 12, 15, 16, 18, 26 and 30, and added new claims 32-38.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-14, 16-24 and 26-28 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rushforth. Claims 15 and 29-31 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rushforth in view of Corbin. Claims 25 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rushforth in view of Reynolds.

Applicants have amended the independent claims to include limitations on the type of cast that is being placed in the welding wire. None of the references of record disclose, teach or suggest such limitations on a weld wire that is to be wound on a spool. Applicants submit that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,
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